SUN DANCE OF THE PONCAS.

A WEIRD CEREMONY WHICH THIS YEAR A WHITE MAN SAW.

Lasts Three Days and Nights and Works Up the Indians to a Great State of Exettement-Tortures the Braves Underwent-incidental Feast on Dog. WHITE EAGLE, Oklahoma, Sept. 10 .- The

annual sun dance of the Ponca Indians was beld near this place in the last full moon of last August. Nearly two hundred Indians. including several women and a boy scarcely 12 years old, participated in it, and more han a thousand Indians were in camp. The presents were costlier and more numerous than had been given in years. The dance was attended by visiting Kaws, Osages, Otoes, Pawnees and a band of Poncas from Nebraska. The master of ceremonies was White Eagle, head chief of the tribe, a magnificent Indian, standing 6 feet and 3 inches in his moccasins. The white tepees of the Indians stood in an immense circle on a prairie east of the Government Agency buildings. On the porth was the Arkansas River, marked by rugged hills and the verdure of its forests, as it came down from the far-off mountains of Colorado in its ever-widening and winding reaches. Faint columns of smoke from the tepee fires rose softly in the summer air, the tinkle of bells came faintly from the pony herds grazing in the valley, and tawny children romped and shouted at play, while the men sat smoking in solemn groups, and the women, bearing the burdens of tribal life, busied themselves with

The sun dance was celebrated with three days and nights of dancing. The Poncas, once a warlike and powerful tribe on the Western plains, hold to the traditions and ceremonies of this dance with great devotion, although time and circumstances have modified some of its characteristic features. It came to the Poncas from the Sioux long ago, but even at this day in essential details it is the same as the oun dance of the Sioux. The Poncas say that the dance is an invocation to the Great Spirit through the power and majesty of the sun for an abundance of food in the coming year and for preservation from disease and evil spirits. It also expresses gratitude for whatever good fortune has ome in the past. The literal significance of its customs and of the decorations and equipments of the dancers is difficult to learn. Even the most capable students of the sun dance have told little else than how it was performed, advancing into perplexing uncertainties when they attempted to tell why this or that thing was

The ceremony is always held on a level plain. The tepee camp-circle of the Poncas this year was possibly a quarter of a mile in diameter. The entrance to this circle was from the east, toward the rising sun, The tepees facing toward the centre. the customary council of the head men was held to decide upon the programme. Only the head Chief and his band Chiefs have the right to sit in this council of their own volition, and the honor of an invitation, seldom conferred, is greatly coveted by Indians whose status is simply membership in the tribe. Unless invited the latter are not even permitted to approach the But this year a white friend of the Poncas was invited to the council. "We have grown to love you as if you were a Ponca," said White Eagle, courtier

and diplomat, to him. "Since you were a little boy you have known us and been our friend. When my people were hungry in the cold winter you gave them food When our ponies were stolen you helped us get others, and when our children died and the women were weeping in the forest. you gave us money to buy coffine. We ask you to eat with us and smoke the pipe. and in many years no white man has been given the honor of eating dog with the Poncas.

The white man was in distress. He had not known that the Poncas ate dog. As a rule, the tribe had long since abandoned the custom, but it had survived in the deliberations of the sun dance council. So dog was eaten. A plate, a cup, a spoon, but no knife or fork, were placed in front o each person. A steaming brass kettle was brought in and, beginning with the white man, a portion of meat and a quof soup were placed in each plate was repeated in turn until the contents of the kettle had been exhausted. Bread was broken and coffee poured. A fat pup about the size of a big coon had been cooked. white man drew the hambone of a hind leg, and his task was to consume about a quarter of a pound of dog meat. Bracing himself for the ordeal, he seized the meat with his fingers and began eating. But, so he said afterward, there were worse things than dog. The meat was seasoned with salt, and tasted not unlike young pig. The Indians ate with gusto, and the white man ate most of his share and then excused himself from further induigence by saying that he had just eaten at home, and was

not very hungry. After the feast on dog the dishes were removed and White Eagle filled his red andstone pips with tobacco mixed with the r bark of the red willow that comes n the land of the Sioux. The pipe was sed around, and the feast came to an end "You now same as Ponca," said White Eagle to his guest. "We went you to bring your tepes and your wife and children, and camp with us while we dance."

Several days were consumed in preparing the sun dance. First came the war asc. The Indians painted themselves in war colors, caparisoned their ponies for battle and assembled at sunrise on a low hill outside the camp circle. Suddenly there was the sound of the warwhoop and mult of running horses. The charging into the camp The Indians riding their ponies furiguns at imaginary foes, and obscuring other in dust and smoke. Twice did they ride the circle, the women standing in front of the tepees chanting in a weird minor key. Then checking their horses suddenly the riders rode to the chiefs who

at the centre of the camp circle and

which is supposed to grow in some terious place in the forest. The Poncas the willow, although the Sioux, from the Poneas got the sun dance, use sh. The tree, about thirty feet high, arried into camp with much solemnity. he branches, except those near the sere removed. The latter were bound her with willow withes. A banner sands of bark were removed, tre places painted red. About tree, and almost at right with the trunk, was fastered a le of willow branches. The tree cased and fixed in the ground by the Then each Inman who had sig of dancing appeare a have achieved the greatest

Poncas used canvas; last year the roof was built of willow branches. The sacred tree and a greater part of the space immediately surrounding it were open to the sky. A wall of willow branches was fastened to the outer circle of poles to screen the dancers from too curious eyes. Near the entrance to the camp circle was raised a tepee, in which the dencers were costumed and painted. The fact that an Indian would take part in the fact that an Indian would take part in the sun dance was shown by a banner on a tail pole in front of his tepee. Then, when everything was in readiness for the dance, the banners were moved and massed together near the entrance to the dance tepee. They were of bright colors and could be seen from a long distance fluttering gaily in the wind.

There was dancing both in the dance tepee and on the open ground in front of its entrance. The dancers were naked, except for a breecheloth and a short apron. These aprons were elaborately trimmed

These aprons were elaborately trimmed with beads. Their bodies were painted red or yellow, some using one color and some the other. On their arms, faces and chests were curious designs in white and chests were curious designs in white, black, red, yellow and green, each dancer using one or more of these colors, judicating thereby some brave deed he had performed, the tribal band to which he belonged, or the leader under whose tutelage he danced. Their black hair hung loosely on their shoulders and in it were fastened bags of "medicine."

The dancing on the first day began at

on their shoulders and his bags of "medicine."

The dancing on the first day began at sunrise. As many Indians as could sit within reach of a big drum, beat upon it in good time, and chanted the supplicating songs of the sun dance. Women joined in the singing, grouping themselves on the ground near the drummers. Each the ground near the drummers. dancer had a wooden whistle adorned with the soft plumes of the bald eagle, which he blew in time with the drum beats, raising his feet stiffly and alternately from the ground, and swaving his chest with a peculiar backward and forward motion. The whistles sounded like the calls of a large flock of young turkeys. The dancer did not touch the whistle with his hands did not touch the whistle with his hands which hung loosely at his side. A few of the dancers held shields. Each dancer gazed steadfastly at the sun, as if in ecstacy of adoration, and occasionally life. of adoration, and occasionally lifted high his lands, with his pains toward the sin. White Eagle and the head men of the tribe took turns in harranguing the dancers, inciting them to be brave, and relating deeds of prowess of Indians long dead and gone. When the sun sauk in the west and gone. When the sun sank in the west and the full moon rose in the east, silver-ing the earth with a tenderer light, the dancers continued their devotions, gazing upon the moon, which is interchangeable

ith the sun in this dance.
For three days and nights the dance continued, the dancers retiring at intervals to rest beneath the shelter of the dance tepee. Scarcely any food was eaten. On the last day, Sits-on-the-Hill, the old medicine man of the Poncas, his wrinkled face hideously painted, holding in one hand his whistle and a small bell and in the other a well-wise man bell and in the other a small painted by the state of the same of the

indeously painted, holding in one hand may whistle and a small bell and in the other a small miror which he flashed toward the sun, danced alone outside the tepee. He danced in a manner that was a wonder in barbaric ritualism. A long semi-circle of dancers, with waving banners above them made a magnificent background.

Sits-on-the-Hill was a consummate actor and the picture was as wild and uncivilized as the dream of a fetish worshipper in the depths of an African forest. With short quick steps, he began the round of a circle about one-hundred feet in diameter. With uplifted face and arms, he addressed the sun slowly and as if in the awe of some great mystery. Again, his words came from between his teeth as a man speaks in the stress of great pain. Several times he crossen his arms over his breast. The wailing song of the women and the drum beaters, the booming drum and the sounding whistless were a savage accompaniment. The desire of the dancer is to have visions in which he believes that he receives revelations.

The desire of the dancer is to have visions in which he believes that he receives revelations from the Great Spirit. Should his dancing fail to produce this visionary state, he resorted in former days to physical torture, horrible in its cruelty. The dancer who offered himself for torture stood unflinehingly while an old warrior. dancer who offered himself for torture stood unflinehingly while an old warrior, lifting as much fiesh as he could grasp on the dancer's back or chest, thrust through it a wooden skewer and drew after it a rawhide thong. The Poncas are said never to have used a knife for this purpose. The thong was tied and the other end fastened to the sacred tree. Often rom half a dozen to a dozen dancers were Sometimes the thong was so short that the dancer had to be lifted from his feet to permit its being drawn through his flesh.
There he remained until his own weight
or his struggles released him. Often he
hung suspended for hours, blood streamcaped and distended in a great mass where

aped and distended a e thong was attached. Another dancer would tie his thong to buffalo skull which was dragged on the buffalo skull the thong was forn from his a buffalo skull which was dragged on the ground until the thong was torn from his flesh. A dancer could take his favorite pony into a dance. This was done by a Ponca in the last dance, and the pony was tied to the sacred tree. In the old days, the thong was fastened to the pony's tail and the pony whipped until it ran and the thong was torn from his master's body. White Eagle submitted to torture in this manner at a sun dance in Dakota in 1873. Dancers have frequently fainted and some died in the sun dance torture. A majority of the Poncas bear the sears of torture. This ceremony was long since prohibited. of the Poncas bear the scars of torture. This ceremony was long since prohibited by the agents of the Government, but there is scar, ely an Indian tribe in Oklahoma even at this day, that would not revive the sun dance torture if permission were given.

An important feature of the sun dance is the giving of presents. The whole tribe participates, and families impoverish themselves by their prodigality. Hundreds of ponies, blankets, beans, necklaces, shawis and bolts of calico were given away at the last sun dance. In several instances money was presented. One fam-ily gave a carriage, harness and three trunks filled with clothing, and blankets.

Ants Fond of Mesquitoes, in a Way. From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"A great deal has been said about the mus cles of the flea, said a New Orleans physician, yesterday, who takes great interest in insect study. "but I have come to the conclusion that the ant, considering the size structure and habits of the insect, is probrange of insectivorous life. At any rate am convinced that the ant is more powerful physically than the flea, although I have come in contact with some members of the latter

f a pile driver. But this is aside. I am peaking of ants. Take the smaller kinds of ants. Did you Take the smaller kinds of ants. Did you ever watch them as they stored away their food for winter, the enormous crumbs they would carry into the den? Sometimes these crumbs are eight or ten times the size of the ant, and they rarely call for assistance unless they strike an extremely rough place in the road. But the most interesting thing to me is to see an ant handle a mosquito. Somehow they seem to be fond of mosquitoes and they pounce upon them with great vigor. The ant is a wonderfully considerate creature when it comes to dealing with other ants. If a member is wounded in the struggle for existence they will see that he gets back into the nest all right. This ant humanity, however, seems to stop with the tribe. If a mosquito happens to get wounded near the ant nest so that he cannot get into the air and escape, who into the winged insect. The ants will pounce upon him with vigor, and he will wind up in the ant storehouse, where he will be duly seasoned and put away for winter food, or probably devoured on the spot, if the members are mosquito hungry.

To my observation of the ant and the

voured on the spot, if the members are mor-quite hungry.

In my observation of the ant and the mosquite I have found that the ant is very found of the winerd pests, and really they are great mosquite destroyers, and no doubt they would destroy many more for food purposes if they could get to them. They have the strength, the courage and the in-clination, and I expect they would live on mosquitoes if they had a chance to do so.

the Florida Tenes-Union and t dices From the Florada Tennes-Union and tolices. Below Mianni we have a substitute for the lobster that lives in the crewiess of the coral rock till his season comes, and then he sprawls over acres of sand, fat and fine. This Florada sea crawfish is of excellent flavor, grows to four pounds in weight, is abundant and easily taken. He is not vally the equal of the lobster, but better. It only remains that he he introduced to the gournand with preper preparation and he will immediately become a forwarie. POEMS WORTH READING. An Old-Fashioned Woman.

From the congregationalist. No clever, brilliant thinker she, With college record and degree, She has not known the paths of fame. The world has never heard her name. She has not grown as percent her name. The world has never beard her name. Home is her kingdom. Love her dower—
She seeks no other wand of power.
Around her childish hearts are twined.
As round some reverend as int enshrined,
And find all purity and good in her divinest motherisod.
She keeps her fath unshadowed still—
God rules the world in good and ill.
This sad old earth'a a brighter place.
All for the sunshine of her face;
Her very stalle a hiessing throws.
And hearts are happier where she goes.
A goo'le, clear eyed measanger.
To whisperlove—thank God for her!
L. M. MONTGOMERY.

Diana on the Moo

From the Westminster Gazette Great was Diana on the moor!

She knew that if one never shot One never could pretend to kill. She fired at all, in range or not, First or not hers, no matter what. Claimed most that fell—and claims them still. But when in anguish, weired and shrill. Rang out the voice of Belle the setter. ana rowed and always will, a had not fired. Poor Belle knew better

Flerce were Diana, did she know How sweet September is to me.
Since she, thank Heav'n! declines to go
Among damp turnips, all a row.
Where the brown birds crouch silently.
Diana shall not know the cause.
However much she sneer and gird.
Hist since the shirts the foll green shaws.
I will not drive a single bird! RICCARDO STEPHENS.

To An Old Sofa. From Brooklyn Life. Oh' speak' thou relie of a former age!"
Thou horse-haired some full of mystery.
What doings hast thou seen upon the stage
Perchance, of history."

How many times the silent witness thou Of merry makings in the ancient mense, when graceful forms of powdered belle and beau Brushed by thee in the dance?

How often bath it been, in days of old, That on thy arm the tears have fallen free As, weepingly, some lovesick maid hath told fler misery to thee?

And wast thou jealous? Tell me truthfully?
When, after thou hadst seethed her all the day,
Her lover came, oblivious of thee,
And kissed her tears away?

But, truth to tell, I do not care a rap
What strange adventures, haply, once were thine.
While I am sitting in thy spaceous lap
With Arabelle in mine.
ARTHUR CHAWFORD.

When Johnny Spends the Day

From the Century. When Johnny spends the day with us, you never seen the beat O' all the things a happenin' in this ole house an'

Ma she begins by lockin' up the pantry door an' orliar.

An' ev'ry place that's like as not to interest a feller.

An' all her chiny ornyments, a stickin' round the An' all her collay branch, fer fear they'll She sets as high as she him reach, fer fear they'll An' then she gits the arnicky, an' stickin' plaster, An' says. "When Johnny's visitin' they're good to have about." I tell you what, there's plenty fuss.
When Johnny spends the day with us!

When Johnny spends the day with us. Pa puts his An' says. 'How long, in thunder, is that noceance gon' to stay?'

He brings the new lawn mower up, an' locks it in his strop an' rasor 'tween the covers on the bed. He says. Keep out that liberry, whatever else you do. Er I shall have a settlement with you, an' Johnny. Says he. "It makes a lot o' fuss To have him spend the day with us!"

When Johnny spends the day with us, the man Rune out an' swears like anything, an' stamps with both his feet: An' says he'll have us 'rested 'cause his winder glass An' if he ever ketches us it won't be any joke! He never knows who done it, 'cause there's no one

An' Johnny in perticular, ain't likely to be found.
I tell you what there's plenty tuss.
When Johnny spends the day with us! When Johnny spends the day with us, the cat gits up and goes when Johnny spends the day with us, the cat gits
up and goes
Ascoult 'crost a dozen lots to some ole place she
knows.

The next door children climb the fence, an' hang
around for hours.

An' bust the hinges off the gate, an' trample down
have perished. An' break the line with Bridget's wash, an' muddy

up the close.

An' Bridget she gives warnin' then—an' that's the way it goes.

A plenty noise an' pienty fuss.

When Johnny spends the day with us!

ELIZABETH SYLVESTER.

The Old-Fashioned Fiddle.

From the Boston Daily Globe. Oh, the old fashioned fiddle
Was a common kind of thing.
But the old fashioned fiddle
Had the right kind of ring.
And I never heard it running
Over high notes and low.
But the old fashioned fiddle
Made the warm blood flow.

And the old-fashioned fiddle

And the old fashloned fiddle

Made the right kind of noise in the old fashioned kitchen For the girls and the boys, When the little and the large, And the matron and the maid. Took a froile on the floor When the old fiddle played.

And the old-fashloned fiddle

Was an instrument of grace.
Till the howling of the organ.
Took the old fidele's place.
And I never hear it sounding
Its machinery of praise
Without longing for the fiddle
of the dear old days.

How the choir had to hustle When the first fiddle led. And the doctor played the second. Till his nose grew red. And the happy congregation of the old church feld Went soaring up to heaven
As the anthems roiled.
NASHUA. N. H. JOSIAH M. PLETCHER.

Kodakked Love.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer Hilds has a camera—I bless the day she bought it Likewise she has the fever in its most malignan When I saw its possibilities, I straightway went and And now we work together in her dark room soug and warm.

ne rules on his saire fresh from Di Come. Whick on the Forehead And Hump on the Nose. And Cut of the Finger. And Tiny Stumped Toes. And Poor Little Freshing. And Stumble and Fall. And Stap dang and Bruisy. Come on, and come all. And use the saire of the Sand-man.

Just lay your little head And close the teat glued lashes As if to take a nep. Then listen for the Sand man. Croming low a slumber suit, While he rules on the salls from treamland.

Come Whark on the Forehead, And Thompson the Nose, And Cut on the Pinger, And Tin, Stumped toes, and Tin, Stumped toes,

ICELAND'S EARTHQUAKES.

Dr. Thoroddsen's Long Report on the Latest of These Catastrophes. No part of the worl i excepting Japan and a few other Asiatic islands is visited so frequently by earthquakes as Iceland. This great volcanic rock is shaken by about seventy-five severe earthquakes in a century. The most violent effects are often found in the uninhabited parts of the country which comprise most of the island. Of course, in these cases, there is not much

destruction of life or property; this is the

reason why comparatively little is heard

of the earthquakes of Iceland

Until the last great series of shocks occurred the earthquakes of Iceland were never studied by a man competent to collect accurate data and to describe them adequately. These earthquakes occurred five years ago in the western, or inhabited part of the country and a great deal of damage resulted though the loss of life was very small. They continued through August and September, 1896. Later that fall, Dr. Theodore Thoroddsen, who has made himself famous as the scientific explorer of Iceland, collected by correspondence much information from persons who lived in the disturbed area. In the summer of 1897 he travelled all through the region affected in order to study al! phases of the catastrophe and to collect evidence from many eve-witnesses. He wrote an exhaustive report which was published in the Icelandic language in 1899, making a book of 200 pages. A condensed account of these earthquakes has just been published by Dr. Thoroddsen in German and the few facts here given are taken from this long report. While the earthquakes were felt through

out the entire southern lowland and all of the western fourth of the island, the most severe disturbances occurred in a triangular area in the southwest part not far from the sea and covering a district about 600 square miles in extent. Outside of this area and extending further inland strong shocks were felt over a region embracing about 1500 square miles. Weaker effects were noted in a far larger area, outside those main regions of dis-turbance and including all the western part of the island; so that the total land area of the island; so that the total land area affected was about 21,000 square miles. As it is probable that an equally large area of the sea floor was disturbed it is supposed that the movements extended with greater or less intensity through the rocks covering an area of about 40,000 square miles or more than twice the area of New York State. The land surface affected was a little larger than this State. fected was a little larger than this State. Reykjavik, the capital and chief town, was in the region of least disturbance, and practically no damage was done there. If these earthquakes

If these earthquakes had occurred in any very populous land with high houses and large cities the destruction of life and large cities the destruction of life would have been very great. But in Iceland the danger is lessened by the peculiar type of buildings characteristic of the country. The village consists of small and low houses, the inner walls made of wood while the outer walls and roof are of warm grass thatch, a great protection against the winter cold. Stone houses against the winter cold. Stone houses are built in considerable numbers in the larger towns, but they are very dangerous for they are likely to become heaps of ruine immediately when assaulted by such terrific shocks as those of 1896. Wooden houses usually held together until their occupants have time to get out of them.
This is the reason why the loss of life is very small though a great number of buildings were destroyed or badly dam-

Out of a total of 4,480 dwelling houses and 5,739 stables in the regions most severely shaken, 17 per cent. were wholly destroyed and most of the remainder were severely damaged. The calamity was indeed a terrible one to the poor farmers, indeed a terrible one to the poor farmers, indeed a terrible one to the poor farmers, herders and fishermen, who comprise nearly all the population of Iceland; but fortunately their heavy material losses were their severest affliction. While many received slight wounds, few were badly injured and only four were killed outright. Nearly all the cattle and sheep were in the meadows,

The strongest and most destructive shocks were five in number beginning on Aug 26, the second on Aug 27, the third on Sept 5, the fourth on Sept 6 and third on Sept. 3, the fourth on Sept. 6 and the fifth on Sept. 11. There were also a large number of shocks of less intensity and the movements continued with less-ening strength till the end of September, 1897, or more than a year after they began. During the most violent periods the sur-face of the earth was in continual motion like the waves of the sea so that neither men nor animals could stand on their feet but were thrown to and fro. These earth waves were plainly visible moving over the alluvial lowlands but there was no trace of them among the mountains be-

frace of them among the mountains ter-hind them.

Great landslides, however, occurred among the mountains. Skardsfrjall, an isolated eminence rising about 700 feet above the plain, had the appearance of shaking itself like a poodle that has just shaking itself like a poodle that has just come out of the water, many cracks appeared on its surface, and the thick blanket of earth that had covered its slopes slipped to the foot of the mountain where it lay in great heaps. Near Krokur, a great mass of earth several acres in extent and from six to nine feet in thickness was locsened from the underlying rock and slipped and rolled downward, though the slope was only one to two degrees. In another place a basalt rock, eight feet high and forty feet in circumference, was thrown some distance from its original position. forty feet in circumference, was thrown some distance from its original position. Before each shock noises long drawn out and most alarming were heard in the interior of the earth.

A great many wide crevasses were found

A great many wide crevasses were found. Some of them, six to nine miles in length, filled with water and looked like long, thread-like lakes, some of them also had an important influence upon the surface water, completely draining small lakes and swamps which they happened to cross.

The earthquakes had a remarkable influence upon many mineral springs and geysers. New ones came to light and others were apparently blotted out of existence. On the night of Sept. 5-6 a new geyser, amid the most deafening noise, suddenly made itself manifest by an outburst of water, steam and stones that were shot 600 feet into the air. Its force rapidly subsided and in a few days the chullition was only twelve to sixteen feet above the The red light must be very dim, or 'twill result in 'forging'.

Indeed, I really think 'us best to have no light at all.

And I some realous chaperon, our guileless footsteps decking.

Comes stealing to the bolted door, she needs must knock or call. Rnock of eail.

In short, there's no convenience or safeguard that is went inc.

To Hilda's little dark room, and you will not think it queer. This our enthusiasm nothing can succeed in daunting. Our pictures! the we huy them it is so much easier.

The Sand man.

The Sand man.

From Good Housekeeping.

The Sand man carries little Made of raveled thistle down.

All powdered oer with pollen.

The court words recorded thistle down.

All powdered oer with pollen.

The court words recorded the sand man down ones being formed. wells under went great changes, old ones dis-appearing and new ones being formed.

As is usual in Iceland the carthquakes began in the cast and the movement was toward the west. The volcanos Hecla, Kalta and Eyjafjallajokull were completely passive during and after the carthquake-rectoris.

periods.

The southern lowland where these disturbances originated an area of subsidence. Steep mountain slopes form the boundary between the highland and the low plain. Dr. Thoroddsen says the probability is that this boundary line extends deep into the earth as a line of breakage in the rocks. the earth as a line of breakage in the rocks. The earthquakes in the plain, probably caused by breakages and slippings among The two political parties of Virginia made the enused by broakage to the cleap seated rocks under the plain, of the deep seated rocks under the plain, do not send their earth waves among the mount not send their earth of the spreading of

NEW HOME OF WAGNER MUSIC. Opening of the Prince Regent Theatre at

Munich Its Future. A summer pugrimage to Bavaria is never time wasted. There are Nürnberg and Munich and the Highlands. Last year the searchers after notabilities hastened to Oberammergan; this year to the Wagner Festival at Bayrouth presentation of "Parsifal" was given there on Aug. 2; on the 21st, the new Prince Regent Theatre in Munich was formally opened by a presentation of the "Meistersinger alternate days during September "Tristan," "Tannhauser" and "Lohengrin" are to follow; these operas, with the six given during August at Bayreuth, leave little to be desired by those learned or curious in German opera.

The Prince Regent Theatre is, for a number of reasons, entitled to more than passing interest. It stands, in the first place, for the final realization of King Ludwig II and Wagner's dream of an ideal home for grand opera. Not that Bayreuth, with its hidden orchestra and amphitheatral arrangement does not in large measure carry out Wagner's idea. It ever, two features which the Munich building makes ready claim to permanence and beauty. The interior decorations of the house at Bayreuth mock Greek symplicity in the interests of economy; with the house at Munich, the eye has but to rest upon it to be immediately convinced of its beauty a chaste decorative renaissance, flat, not dome-shaped ceiling, a body of some 1,500 seats in perfect amphitheatral order, unobstructed by post or piller Back of these, is a row of nine commodious boxes, three of them with royal transings. There are no galleries; the decorations are sumptuous, but not overdone; the whole gives the impression of an ornate concert hall, so exquisite that one feels happy in the contemplation

The building itself stands on the high ground by the Maximilianeum, about wenty minutes' drive from the royal resi-It is decently imposing, naturally, not so impressive as the Paris Opera House, nor so heavy. Some day a big theatre may be externally beautiful, the new building at Munich does not lead the way, neither does any of its charm lie in the foyer, but simply where, after all, it is

"Meistersinger," Wagner's only The "desistersinger, wagner a only really light opera, was appropriately chosen for the opening piece. People had come to applaud between the acts, they were satisfied with something characteristically German—old Nürnberg, Hans Sachs, memory a period vital in German national

fe and song The scene itself was gay and cosmopol-The scene itself was gay and cosmopolitan to a degree. The regular twenty-mark tickets had been selling at a premium for days in advance; the hotels had been giving up their bathrooms to their belated visitors; the annual exhibit of art in the Glass Palace was in full swing. A cosmopolitan audience in Munich, however, resembles neither a crowd at Port Said, nor a Parisian first night. There were wild-eyed Russians, and dark-skinned people from east of Vienna, Englishmen and the ubiquitous Americans, Frencamen, and Germans from every corner of the Empire. And the dress was as varied in makeup as the people in nationality. in makeup as the people in nationality. Richness there certainly was, but style, little, and far between.

What these good foreigners think they

what these good foreigners thing they are wearing, or whether they imagine they are worthily dressed, a conventional American will not hazard a conjecture. Ill-flitting coats of no cut whatever, and put on to match, recall nothing more forcibly than the footmen's scirce in Pickwick. And as for the women, the impra they leave is not dissimilar. A w spangled dress, with rough street s wide sashes on stout women; combinations of color, dowdy and elegant, that cry aloud. there are a few Germans who have caught the air. Probably the greatest loss to the display was the absence of the Regent Luitpold and suite who are at present

elaboration. Never, not even in Paris, has it been given with greater care. And herein lies the one fault in Wagner premuch of us as Wagner. Six hours, of even a languid man's day is a good deal to devote o one sort of amusement, even if it is over before 11 o'clock.

hear music undisturbed by the bowing of the fiddlers, be it never so graceful, and the energy of the trombonists,
is something. The singing was of a high
level, Herr Feinhaus as Hans Sachs and
Knote as Wolther coming as near stars as
need be, Herr Klopfer in the part of Pagner
seemed to have effected a creation.

Between the acts there was the usual
promenading about and ogling and eating.
The restaurant immediately adjoining the
fover is decorated in keeping, at least it
is adorned with a palm-leaf ceiling, and is a
tribute to the new art which eating and
Germany pay to French taste.

Germany pay to French taste.

With the strong Wagner society back
of it the theatre will doubtless be largely of p the theatre will doubtless be largely if not wholly devoted to that master's works. One of the aims of the society is to establish free representations so that all classes may have their chance to hear what so many of them cherish to idolatry. At the head of the roll of members stand the names of Prince Regent Luitpold and Prince Ludwig Ferdinand. When Frau Wagner passes away then the music of Wagner will find its unique home in Munich, and Bayreuth will be but a name.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Democratic State Convention in New Jersey This year's days of registration will be Friday Saturday, Oct. 12, Priday, Oct. 18 and Satu-New York city recovered last year \$4,044 35 fr

orfelted ball bonds, \$302.62 from the conscience and, and \$8 from the sale of grass grown on Staten

Congressman Pugsley of Westchester, Democratic member elect from that district, it is announced, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Gov-ernor in 1905. There will be a State convention of the Socialist party in Dhode Island on Sunday, Sept. 15, for the purpose of nominating candidates for State offices. The Socialists have been increasing their sole in Rhode Island considerably in late years.

More than \$10,000,000 will be raised by direct taxa tion in the city of New York to pay what are known as county charges, the maintenance of the county offices in the four counties making up the city, and for the expenses of each toward the State tax. New York county's share of these items is \$7.658,000. The share of Kings county is \$2.437,000. The share of Queens is \$365,000 and that of Richmond \$160,000.

The nomination of a Populist ticket in lows, every candidate upon which, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Railmad Commissioner and Supreme Court Judge, was chosen to acclamation and unanmously, is better understood when the explanation is made that the convention was atlended by only twenty

The Republican Congressional convention the country, and at last year's election, notwith standing many reasons for Democratic gain, the McKinley plurally was 101,000 against 56,000

persons who find designs in position debates will be pleased to know that Col. J. Hampton Hoge, the Republican nominer has announced that he will make a canvass of the State and distillenge the Hoatains of the interior, for the spreading of these waves to the highlands is interpreted by deep lying crevases and dislocations in the rocks. But the tremendous iar caused

PROTESTANTISM IN ROME. Strength of the Proschiling Movement and of the Catholic Resistance to It. From a Roman Catholic Correspondent of

the Guerdian The reference in a recent Papal utterance to the inroads of sectarian proselytism in Rome, echoed in the English pilgrims address to the Holy Father, and emphasized by an appeal for foreign capital with which fight the insidious enemy, published in the Osservatore Romano, prove sufficiently that in the opinion of the Vatican the Church is faced by a new danger. Some years ago there was a settled conviction in haly that there could and would be no genuine Prot estantism there. There was the indige nous Waldensianism, but for the rest Italians only played with Protestantism for blankets and grocerics. The estensible statistics do not certainly

appear to warrant any alarm thirty years ago there were 20,000 Protestants in Italy; the last census shows 50,000, and this its cludes the (not inconsiderable) number of English and other resident Protestants. In the 40,000,000 of the population there are in any case not a quarter of a million who profess a religion other than the Catholic One cannot suppose that these figures would have suggested any real menace to religion, and the true bearing of the fact can only be guaged by going below the surface; this is especially so in the case of Rome itself. The "Opera della Preser vazione della Fede" held a meeting la-June, at which twenty Cardinals were The theme discussed was the "Prot estant Propaganda in Rome," and Cardinal Parocchi did not hesitate to describe the movement as a "ponderous assault" carried on by every possible means, against the Cathelic Church in Italy, and more epecially in Rome. A relation was made of the results of the society's work in the three years of its existence, from which it appears that 2,000 children have been with drawn from Protestant influence, by op-posing "school to school, laboratory to laboratory, creche to creche," and that this result is "entirely inadequate to the

this result is "entirely inadequate to the very grave and urgent need which presses. The whole population of Rome is only 480,000. It will be seen, then, that the strides of Protestantism have been giant strides. The Society for the Preservation of the Faith proposes to meet the need in the way above indicated, not schools only, but recreation grounds, even money subsidies, must be provided, while Irish, American and English religious of both sexes have been specially pressed into the work, thus opposing English-speaking Catholics as a bulwark against the ravages of their a bulwark against the ravages of Protestant fellow countrymen. But one other and characteristic means has been tried. The Oceandore, the official organ of the Holy See, has issued an appeal to foreign Catholics (i.e., to English and Ameri-can capital) to help with money. The fact is that the immense riches of

the Holy See are employed, first and be-fore all things, in obtaining the influence necessary to secure a return to temporal power, hence Methodist money may well win in the race against the sums spent by the Vatican in preserving the faith of the

ganda in Rome is in the hands of a few Protestant hodies subsidized chiefly from America in 1848 there were no Protestants ica in 1848 there were no Protestants but the Waldensians of the mountain vil-lages of Piedmont. When the Kingdom of but the Waldersians of the mountain vil-lages of Piedmont. When the Kingdom of Naples was annexed in 1860, together with the Tuscan Grand Duchy, Modena, Parma, Bologna and Umbria, the Protestants legan their activity in Italy. The Waldensians split into three factions, the two offshoots being represented in Rome by the Chiesa Libera Italiana and the many Sale Christiana. Anglo-Saxon Protestantism is represented by the American Methodists, Baptists aupported from England, and Scotch Pres-byterians. A capital point is made of the alleged fact

that the poor are reached by money dona-tions: Roman priests are sure that they have hold of the right end of the stick, because men who state that they have been at one of the Protestant meetings in the morning, bewail themselves in the evening Madonna di Sant' Agostino. the Jesuit male oratory of the Caravita.

But I think it will be found that such "repentance" is included in with fraudulent intent. Men, taking advantage of the active from the styles of last winter that a tell them that if they will not help with money "they must go to this or that chapel, where their wants will be supplied." Thus the begging class play off the Protestant propaganda as a means of livelihood. I think that a little first-hand study of the methods of "conversion" would dispet the

methods of "conversions" would dispet the notion that the "conversions" of the poor are purchased by money. The second point made on our side is that Protestant disaffection is largely political. Protestant disanction is largely pointed.

Protestants are universally supposed to be friendly to Semitism and Masonry, while our present chief article of consumption is anti-Semitism and anti-Masonry. On this second point the Catholics have some reason on their side. The good old ladies who provide money for missionaries do not not take "by first intention" it is assisted extraneous national movements. It is into soil already ploughed up, and

finds its level among the general discontent prevailing at any given moment.

The Catholics have always declared that the Los con Rom agitation is primarily political, that it signifies anti-Austrianism. And, in fact, the Los von Kom is a perfect example of its kind. The leverage is re-ligious, the end political. The net gain to Protestantism is in the weakening of Catho-lic convictions. Protestant ends are served by thus contrasting Protestant and Cathoshance were it not so power aided by the enormous religious indiffer-ence, the total lack of deep religious feeling

From the Lady's Magazas. In view of the coronation next year, all the tate coaches are being overhauled and put into repair, as many of them were in sadi; into repair, as many of them were in sadly dilapidated condition through want of use Lord Salisbury and the Duke of Portland both possess beautiful State coaches, and so do the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Beronsbure, the Duke of Mariborough, and the Duke of Buccleuch white Lord Londonderry's and Lord Cadogan's are perhaps the best atturned out. The various Embassies also have splendid coaches.

Foreign Noice of Real Interest

Camille Saint Saens, the French composer, ha-

died recently, has given his name to the former Via della Pace, where he had his studio for over thirty toria's favorite residence, is to be the home of the Duke of Cornwall and York when he returns from his

trip to the colonies.

Norwegian fishery commissioners have been meas. uring the saimon's lear by thouns of standards ercore below waterfells. They have found that the first can leap to a beight of twenty feet

France is proud of the increase in her population he census figures for this year are \$5.641.522, ar Salzburg proposes to honor Monari as Bayreuth does Wagner in holding Monari restitals at regular interests. This summer from Glovanni was given with singers from Berlin, Virnus, Dresden and Hoda

had tament, wife of the few scaletter sense at was recently attacked by a going of five vocing men in the afternoon in a fashiomable part of London, and tobbed of her purse which was chained to bee wrist. The men were caught.

Make is vecting up prayers in the churches to aven the threatened increase of lanation to the tintian Government. The feeling of the people against the amountation of English for Italian as the otheral lan-

guage is very little;
A graceful act of recognize in its Duchess of You

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN. Members of the two companies of the Seventh Regiment which went to the Pan-American Exposition came back somewhat doubtful about the pleasure of wear-

ing a uniform on such an occasion. You see, said one Seventh Regiment man, "there were thousands of people at the show who had never seen a Seventh Regiment uniform, and that probably, accounts for the mistakes that were made. The first time that I was halted on the grounds and asked in a peremptory man-

ner by an old farmer where a certain building was, I answered politely and thoughe
nothing of it. A few minutes later a woman
caught hold of my sleeve and said:

"Say, where's the Woman's Building?"
"I don't know." I said:

"Don't know!" she exclaimed Well,
I'd like to know what these Pair people. re you for, anyway." What do you think I am, madam?

"You're one of the guides, she said, and a mighty poor one at that." I was mistaken several times for an Exposition policeman. Other Seventh Regiment men had the same experiences. They ment men had the same experiences.

A German who brought a Berlin joke shore last week without Custom House interference has been exploding it industriously around town since. The joke was whispered to him in Berlin on his pledge export it promptly. Here it is Acid aying "The Emperor! why he is nothing in a glibering talker," and he was promptly Why do you arrest me?" he asked the.

For saving that the Emperor is a gibber of ing talker.

But I did not mean the Emperor of Germany, he protested. "I was talking about,
the Emperor of Russia."

"Ach sot" said the officer with a puzzled."

"It has the Emperor of "

expression. "Is then the Emperor Russia a gibbering talker also?" One of the best dancing masters in New York says that the London dancing teacher who asserts that American women are richeulous when they dance does not know what good dancing is, and if an international qu contest in this graceful amusement were arranged American women would win. Good time and grace are the points in waltzing, and although the standard for, the first is absolute, the question of gracefulness is one on which there may be a fair difference of opinion. English and Canadian women have had the reputation in this country of being stiff dancers. But that according to the London teacher, is to be desired. It is what he calls "east rigidity". In favor of the American girl is

rigidity. In favor of the American girl is the fact that she usually goes to denoing school about the time she graduates from a kindergarten and that she goes into society at a much earlier age than the English girl. If the London teacher had said that fewer American men dance now than formerly he might have found few to contradict him. It is not as easy for a hostess into New York to gather a let of presentable dancing men as it was a few years ago. It has been men as it was a few years ago, it has been revived there may be a reaction in the sentiment about men dancing.

The baggage that has been piled up sig and eight trunks high every morning in the last week in the Grand Central Station is the strongest proof that people are coming back to town. Although New York tels have been well filled all summer and the city itself has not worn a deserted aspect, the influx of returning New Yorkers was noticeable everywhere after Labor.

Day. The theatre audiences, which, during the summer, were made up largely of out-of-town visitors, resumed again their distinctive New York characteristics. The people back to town a full month earlier than they would otherwise come, for Septaber in recent years has invariably had

The official organs of the tailors, after announcing positively that styles for men's clothes this winter will differ so radically wearing a 1900 suit of clothes would be identified at a glance, relate in detail the differences and they prove to be hardly worth discussing. Men who want to wear fashionable clothes will continue to have their sack coats cut short, but not so short the state of the same coats. as the exaggerated military coats that have been worn during the summer. Some change is necessary and the tailors have decided that cutaway coats should not be cut away quite so much this year and that transers should be slightly wider at the bettam. There is no appreciable change. that trousers should be slightly wider at the bottom. There is no appreciable change in the style for frock coats, but the tailors say that the single-breasted frock, which was an experiment last year, may come into favor this winter. The silk hat will be slightly more bell shaped. In other words, the man who bought a new outfit of clothes last winter may wear them this winter without fear of ridicule from superior persons who buy new wardrobes each year that is, if he has kept the moths out of them between seasons.

In view of the enormously increased activity in building apartment house in New York in the last three years the state of ment of real estate dealers that the supply to is still inadequate to the demand is eigenificant. Moreover, prices of apartments have increased very materially. An averhave increased very materially. An average apartment, as the average was five years ago, night have been rented for from \$800 to \$1,000 Apartments that are now merely "average apartments".

from \$800 to \$1,000. Apartments that are now merely average apartments from 1800 to \$1,000. Apartment from 1800 to \$1,000. Apartment in finishing them. For the best apartments in New York one must pay six or eight times that amount of rent.

Apartment house life was once looked upon as a scheme for household economy and people who could afford houses seldom took an apartment in preference. Houses may be rented in good residence districts in New York for from \$1,500 a year up to many times that, so it is not economy that propole to take apartments that many times that, so it is not economy prompts people to take apartments rent from \$3,000 to \$10,000 a year. quently the choice is made because of the convenience of location or because of a desire to live on one floor only.

Victor Mapes, the first of the young iramatists to come before the public this season, is one of the five Mapeses who have been students of Columbia College at various times in the last fifteen years, and he was graduated at the head of his class. He held for several years an intercollegiate

He held for several years an intercollegiate record in athletics.

He made all the theoretical preparation for the stage and then determined to take a place in which he might learn the practical side of the dramatist's perfession. Daniel Froham, recognizing his takent and enthusiasm, offered him the post of assistant stage manager at the Lycoum, and on the death of the veteran Freel Williams, he was made the stage manager of Daly's, a post he still holds. Mr. Mapes, who had the unique experience of having one of his plays acted in Paris, is a member of the University Club.

Everybody knows that Jean de Ressler spends all his spare time in Paris going from one music teacher to another begfrom one music teacher to another begging to be allowed to hear the American girls there sing, just as his brother Edouard likes nothing so much as signing two-thousand-dollar checks for waiters with real tenor voices. Although M. Jean passes so much time in looking for the Americans that sing in Paris, or at least study there, however, it never happened before that he has been the guardian and the continuously. But a press agent has collected a company a graceful act of tree contents. After alighting from But a press agent has conjected a company the coach they had to unverse a rather mindy road made up wholly of singers encourage by loan de Resake, with the exception of